

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is rain water or snow melt that can either absorb into the soils (infiltrate), evaporate, and/or flow across impervious surfaces like roofs, disturbed soil, and pavement, creating runoff that is carried via pipes, culverts, and ditches to our streams, lakes, and oceans. Both federal and state regulations require municipalities to manage their stormwater

WHY IS STORMWATER RUNOFF IMPORTANT?

Unlike waste water we generate inside our homes, stormwater runoff is not treated before it enters stormdrains, culverts, and ditches. As the stormwater runoff travels across roofs, paved surfaces, and construction sites, it can pick up sediment, oil, and other pollutants. This can have a negative impact on water quality, affecting everything from drinking water to flood protection to recreation. Regulations require municipalities and newer construction projects to control and manage runoff both during and after construction to limit the velocity of the runoff and the amount of sediment and other pollutants



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STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Let's All Pitch In



and Do Our Part!



CONTAMINANT IMPACTS

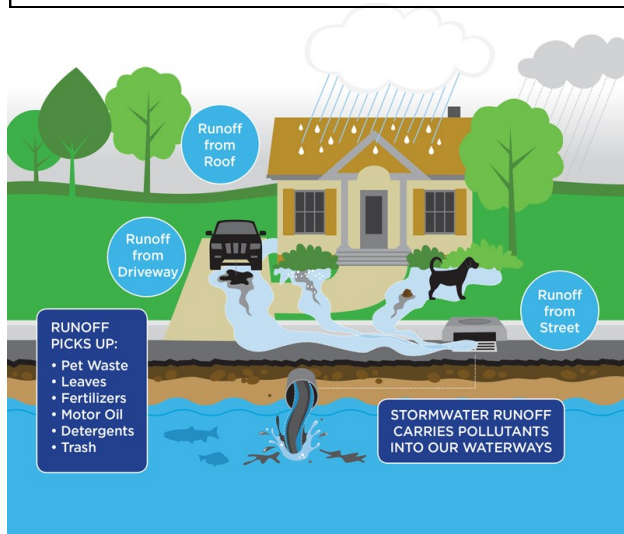
OIL and **OTHER CHEMICALS** like pesticides, fertilizer, paints, and motor oil can poison fish and other plants and animals that live in and around the water. People and animals that drink this water or eat the fish can become sick as well.

DEBRIS such as plastic bags, six-packs rings, and cigarette butts that reach waterways can choke or suffocate ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

BACTERIA and **PATHOGENS** from pet waste or failing septic systems can reach swimming areas. This is a health hazard and often causes beach closures.

NUTRIENTS from fertilizers or detergents stimulate the growth of algae. When the algae dies and decomposes, it depletes the supply of oxygen for fish and other organisms.

SEDIMENT from soil erosion clouds water and fills in wetland areas over time, destroying places where plants and aquatic animals live and decreasing the flood control capacity of wetland areas.



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

TRASH AND GREEN WASTE

- Properly dispose of trash and cigarette butts.
- Place trash and recycle bins outside only on collection days.
- Replace trash bins that are leaking or broken.
- Sweep or rake leaves, and grass clippings. Compost or properly dispose of them.

PET WASTE

- Always properly dispose of your pet's waste, especially when near a waterway.
- Do not dispose of pet waste in stormdrains, culverts, or ditches.
- Flushing pet waste is the best option.

SOIL AND SEDIMENT

- Plant trees, shrubs, and ground cover on slopes to help keep topsoil in place.
- Use mulch to hold water in soil and prevent erosion of exposed soil.
- Plan grading or terracing projects during the dry periods, when possible.
- Cover or stabilize stock piles of soil, dirt, and gravel.

POOLS & SPAS

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all pool chemicals.
- Dispose of liquid waste from pool and spa filters into the house sanitary system. Dispose of solids from pool and spa filters in the trash.
- Drain water to a landscaped or rocky area, avoiding erosion or runoff to a stormdrain.
- Drain water into a stormdrain only if the water is reduced to less than 1 ppm of chlorine or bromine and does not contain algaecides, acid wash, or high levels of salinity.

VEHICLES

- Routinely check your car for leaks and make repairs as soon as possible.
- Don't leave tires or other car parts outside exposed to rainwater.
- Take used oil, antifreeze, and other car fluids to a collection facility. Never dump oil or other fluids in stormdrains, culverts, ditches, or waterways.
- Use a commercial car wash when possible. Commercial car washes often reuse wash water several times.
- Wash your vehicles on a landscaped area to prevent runoff and allow the ground to naturally filter the water.
- Use a hose with a trigger nozzle to save water.
- Use soap sparingly and pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink or across the lawn, not into the street.

BOATS

- Do not discharge water that is oily.
- Do not use detergents to clean the bilge.
- Use non-toxic, phosphate-free biodegradable cleaners.
- Clean boat bottoms ashore, where all debris can be contained and properly disposed of.
- Put your trash in bags and properly dispose of it when you come ashore.
- When fueling, avoid spilling or overfilling. Keep oil absorbing pads aboard.